

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 21, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-33 and 35-40 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 41 has been added. Claim 34 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 1-33 and 35-41 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,940,848 to Liu. The rejection is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claims 1, 26, 37 and 40, and/or the dependent claims thereon.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-25 depend, recites a method including registering a roaming mobile station with a second mobile communications network. The method is used for establishing a connection in a communication system, the connection involving the mobile station subscribing to a first mobile communications network and roaming in the second mobile communications network. The communication system includes a first connection management entity provided in association with the first mobile communication network and a second connection management entity provided in association with the second

mobile communication network. The method also includes registering the roaming mobile station with the second connection management entity and in response to a request for a connection involving the roaming mobile station, routing signaling that associates with the request to one of the connection management entities. The method further includes setting up a communications link between the first and second mobile communications networks via a third communications network by means of the first and second connection management entities based on the signaling associated with the request and establishing the requested connection by means of the communications link, the first mobile communications network and the second mobile communications network. The method further includes receiving the request for connection at a switching center of one of the first and the second mobile communications network. The switching center is configured to signal to the connection management entity provided in association with the same mobile communications network as the switching in response to receiving the request. The connection management entity is configured to request from the connection management entity provided in association with the other one of the first and second mobile communications networks for a communications link to be set-up between the first and second mobile communication networks.

Claim 26, upon which claims 27-33, 35 and 36 depend, recites a communication system including a first mobile communications network, a second mobile

communications network, a third communications network, and a register for registering a roaming mobile station with the second mobile communications network. The registration enables the roaming mobile station to communicate via the second mobile communications network. The system also includes a first connection management entity provided in association with the first mobile communication network and interfacing the third communications network and a second connection management entity provided in association with the second mobile communication network and interfacing the third communications network. The first and second connection management entities are arranged to provide a connection for a mobile station subscribing to the first mobile communications network and roaming in the second mobile communications network and registered with the register and also with the second connection management entity by setting up a communications link between the first and second mobile communications networks via the third communications network. A switching center of one of the first and second mobile communications network is configured to receive the request for connection. The switching center is configured to signal to the connection management entity provided in association with the same mobile communications network as the switching center in response to receiving the request, and the connection management entity configured to request from the connection management entity provided in association with the other one of the first and second mobile communications

networks for a communications link to be set-up between the first and second mobile communication networks.

Claim 37, upon which claims 38 and 39 depend, recites a mobile station configured to register with a second mobile communications network and to register with a connection management entity. The mobile station is used to subscribe to a first mobile communication network and is enabled to roam in a second mobile communication network, including means for converting a destination party number into a number of a connection management entity provided in association with the second mobile communication network, The connection management entity interfaces a third communications network and is arranged to provide a communications link between the first and second mobile communications networks via the third communications network such that the normal call routing between the first and second mobile communication networks is bypassed.

Claim 40 recites a connection management entity for a mobile communications network, the connection management entity is arranged to register a mobile station roaming with, and registered with, the mobile communications network and to communicate with another connection management entity provided in association with a second mobile communication network via a third communications network. The connection management entity is arranged to provide a connection for the roaming

mobile station by means of a communications link set-up between the first and second mobile communications networks via the third communications network.

As outlined below, Applicant submits that the cited reference of Liu does not teach or suggest the elements of any of claims 1-33 or 35-40.

Liu discloses a method of providing voiceover IP between mobile phones in different cellular networks and in particular relates to a method of handover for a connection when one of the mobile phones moves into an area controlled by another mobile switching center (MSC). The connection is first made via a MSC 13, gateway 121, gateway 122 and MSC 14. On moving to an area controlled by another MSC 15, the connection is handed over from the MSC 13 and gateway 121 to MSC15 and gateway 123. The mobile station 11 performs a registration with the MSC 15 and the gateways 121 and 123 communicate with each other to pass control from gateway 121 to gateway 123.

Applicant submits that Liu does not teach or suggest each element recited in independent claims 1, 26, 37 and 40, and the dependent claims thereon. Each of claims 1 and 26 in part recites that registering the roaming mobile station with the second connection management entity and receiving the request for connection at a switching center of one of the first and the second mobile communications network, the switching center being configured to signal to the connection management entity provided in association with the same mobile communications network as the switching center in response to receiving the request, the connection

management entity being configured to request from the connection management entity provided in association with the other one of the first and second mobile communications networks for a communications link to be set-up between the first and second mobile communication networks. Each of independent claims 37 and 40 also recites a communication system including both switching centers and connection management entities. Thus, the present invention, as recited in claims 1-33 and 35-41 requires both switching centers and connection management entities. Liu, on the other hand, fails to disclose or suggest connection management entities, as recited in claims 1-33 and 35-41. Lui merely discloses gateways and MSC. The gateways of Liu are not equivalent with the connection management entities, as recited in claims 1, 26, 37 and 40, in that, the mobile station of Liu does not form a registration with the gateway in addition to a registration via the MSC. Therefore, none of the network elements disclosed in Liu could be considered to be equivalent to the connection management entities of the present invention, as recited in claims 1-33 and 35-41.

There is also no disclosure or suggestion in Liu of providing a connection management entity to which a roaming mobile station is separately registered, in addition to the registration with the mobile communications network in which the mobile station is roaming, as recited in claims 1, 26, 37 and 40. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Liu of utilizing such a connection management entity to connect a call via a third communications network, as recited in claims 1, 26, 37 and 40. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the in Liu of providing a mobile station including means

for converting a destination party number into a number of a connection management entity to which the mobile station is registered, the connection management entity routing a call via a third communications network in response to a request such that the normal call routing between the first and second mobile communication networks is bypassed, as recited in claim 37. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn because Liu fails to teach or suggest each feature of claims 1, 26, 37 and 40 and hence, dependent claims 2-25, 27-33, 35-36, and 38-39 thereon.

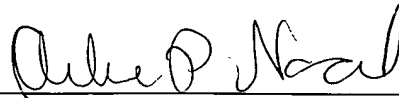
Claim 41 is a corresponding apparatus claim that includes all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Liu fails to also teach or suggest each feature of claims 41.

As noted previously, claims 1-33 and 35-41 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-33 and 35-41 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time
Check No. 14883